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Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly**Drug demand reduction****Illicit drug traffic and supply****Reports by intergovernmental organizations on drug control activities****

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I. Introduction

1. Intergovernmental organizations active in the field of international drug control were invited to submit to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concise reports on their activities conducted in the year 2007 by Friday, 11 February 2008. The following organizations submitted reports to the Secretariat: the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group), the European Community and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The reports of the above mentioned intergovernmental organizations are presented below.

II. Council of Europe: Pompidou Group

2. The Pompidou Group has commenced implementation of its new four year work programme concentrating again on the experience to be drawn from practical implementation of drug policies and the link between policy, practice and science. Special efforts have also been made to step up inter-agency cooperation with other international organizations and agencies active in the field in Europe, particularly those of the European Union.

3. The ethics and professional standards platform completed a study of legal provisions, and an opinion on ethical issues, relating to drug screening in the workplace. The research platform initiated studies on the coherence of policies on licit and illicit drugs and on the interaction of policy and research as well as monitoring experience with its new on-line registry of current drug research which now has more than 50 projects registered.

4. Work has been initiated in the treatment platform on an analysis of treatment/care systems in Europe and on the role and effectiveness of technical and administrative guidelines in shaping programme provisions. Discussions in the annual airports control conference concentrated on traffic through West and East Africa, trafficking of Afghan opiates and intelligence gathering in respect of low cost flights.

5. Major conferences were held on "Quasi-coerced treatment" and other alternative sanctions to imprisonment in collaboration with the Romanian authorities and on the involvement of families in prevention in collaboration with the Portuguese EU presidency. This latter conference discussed two possible pilot projects relating to the use of family leisure activities as a context for drug prevention and a further project using modern media opportunities.

6. New members of the Mediterranean Network include Lebanon, Tunisia, Italy, Portugal and Spain. The network trained Moroccan doctors for two pilot substitution treatment projects and assisted Algeria in initiating a general population survey of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and in holding a first national conference for non-governmental organizations. Training for Algerian doctors with a view to a major expansion of the national treatment system was also planned and has started in 2008.

7. The network of partnerships between stakeholders at frontline level responding to drug problems (EXASS Net) created as follow-up to the 2006 Finnish EU presidency conference on inter-service cooperation is now active.

8. Within the Council of Europe as a whole, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the elaboration of a European Convention on promoting public health policy in drug control. This resolution is currently before the Committee of Ministers for consideration of intergovernmental follow-up.

III. European Community

Internal actions

9. The implementation and evaluation of the EU Action Plan on Drugs 2005-2008 followed its course in 2007. On 10 December 2007, the European Commission adopted its Progress Review Communication and the reflection on the next evaluation exercise and on the future action plan got started.

10. The Commission has reinforced the role of civil society in the EU framework. The first meeting of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs, which it has set up, took place in Brussels on 13-14 December 2007. The participating 26 organizations represented a wide spectrum of views on drugs.

11. To better orientate its policies and actions, the Commission has launched an in-depth study of the global illicit drugs market, one of the largest activities in the world economy.

12. On demand reduction, the Commission has continued to carry out its comprehensive and pragmatic response to the social and health harms posed by drug use. In 2007 it has issued a report on the implementation of the EU Council Recommendation on “*the prevention and reduction of health-related harm associated with drug dependence*”¹ and has supported a range of projects with its programme for Community Action in the field of Public Health² (2003-2008).

13. A “Drug Prevention and Information Programme”³ (2007-2013) was adopted on 25 September 2007, with a budget of € 21.35 million.

14. On supply reduction, several projects were funded under the Prevention of and Fight against Crime (2007-2013)⁴ Programme: a project to support MAOC-N (Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre on Narcotics) (€661.000), a conference on a possible role for MAOC in the Mediterranean (conference-€195.000) and a Commission-led study on drug related and juvenile crime (€216.000).

15. In 2007, the Commission received a formal observer status in the MAOC-N (Maritime Analysis and Operations Center-Narcotics).

16. A Council Decision on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances⁵ was implemented in 2007. A risk assessment has been conducted on a new psychoactive substance, the stimulant 1-Benzylpiperazine (BZP) and has culminated in a proposal by the Commission to schedule BZP in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

¹ COM (2007) 199 final.

² OJ L 271, 09.10.2002.

³ OJ L 257, 03.10.2007.

⁴ OJ L 58, 24.02.2007.

⁵ 2005/387/JHA, 10.5.2005.

External actions

17. The EU is a key actor in the field of international coordination and cooperation against illicit drugs. It is engaged in an active dialogue with the key production and trafficking countries, with which it promotes a balanced approach against drugs, and plays a significant role in supporting them by means of financial and technical assistance.

18. EU Drugs Troika-format meetings took place with the Western Balkans, Russia, Afghanistan, and the US and, for the first time, Ukraine and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States). The Commission, as well as EU Member States, remained particularly active in the Dublin Group and in the Paris Pact, the activities of which are funded, to a large extent, by the European Commission.

19. Financial assistance for the cooperation with third countries and regions against drugs showed an upward trend. Concerning cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, a review of the 1999 Panama Action Plan, which informs this cooperation, culminated in the identification of new priorities in the Port of Spain Declaration of May 2007. Bilaterally, major efforts were devoted to Colombia, and then to Bolivia and Peru (notably in alternative development, complemented by two Andean-wide regional initiatives against synthetic drugs and against precursors' diversion).

20. EU-Russia cooperation has made progress, and a MoU for the exchange of information/best practice was signed in October between the Russian Federal Drug Control Service and the EMCDDA.

21. In the former Soviet Union, efforts continued under the regional programmes BUMAD (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova Anti-Drugs), SCAD (Southern Caucasus Anti-Drugs) and CADAP (Central Asia Drug Action Programme). Some components of the BOMCA programme (Border Management for Central Asia) and EUBAM (European Union Border Assistance in Moldova and Ukraine) also seek to reduce drug trafficking.

22. Afghanistan has continued to be the main recipient of EC assistance: most efforts continued to focus on rural reconstruction and alternative development, together with initiatives to strengthen the justice and police systems, as well as border management. Support was also given to regional cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours against the diversion of precursors. Through the Stability Instrument, a major inter-regional initiative on law enforcement against trafficking among Afghanistan and its neighbours is being prepared.

23. West Africa has been confirmed as a major threat as regard the trafficking of cocaine and the EU is developing a coordinated response to face it. The EC has launched a first-ever project to support law enforcement and intelligence cooperation against cocaine trafficking from Latin America to West Africa, which is implemented by the UNODC. The EU drugs liaison officers' network in West Africa is being reinforced and opportunities are being sounded off to fund a transregional law enforcement and cooperation programme.

24. On 19 December, a donor international conference on drug trafficking in Guinea Bissau was held to obtain funding to put in practice an Operational Plan set

up by this country with UNODC's advice. A special partnership with Cape Verde is emerging.

IV. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

25. During 2007, the EMCDDA continued its ongoing work to improve the quality and comparability of drug information in the European Union. To achieve this, the Centre coordinated and relied on a network of 30 national focal points (Reitox) to gather and analyse country data according to common data-collection standards and tools. Additionally, numerous technical and scientific meetings were held and studies undertaken into specific aspects of the drug situation. Key results of the EMCDDA's work were released in its Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe which was presented to the European Parliament on 22 November in Brussels. The report highlighted that drug use has stabilised in a number of important areas – albeit at historically high levels. It also stated that positive messages were marred by high level of drug-related deaths and rising cocaine use. The report was accompanied by three in-depth reviews on: drugs and driving; drug use and related problems among the under 15s; and the public health impact of cocaine and crack cocaine use.

26. In 2007, the EMCDDA's Scientific Committee – together with additional experts from the European Commission (EC), Europol and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) – drew up a risk assessment report on the new psychoactive substance 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) which examined the health effects of the drug, frequency and patterns of use, evidence of intoxication as well as information on trafficking and the involvement of organized crime. The report was submitted to the EC and the Council with the recommendation to place BZP under control measures.

27. The Centre's strategy for international cooperation was adopted by the Management Board in December and sets two key objectives: to serve as a centre of excellence for providing information on the European drug situation; and to be the European reference for developing a better understanding of the evolution of the drugs phenomenon worldwide. Within this context, the EMCDDA contributed to the final UNGASS progress review by providing a 10-year review of drug strategies and demand-reduction interventions in the EU. The Centre also played an active role in the expert consultation meetings organized by the UNODC.

28. The EMCDDA continues to collaborate with its partners at national level and its peers worldwide. In 2007, a new joint work programme between the Centre and the UNODC was adopted. The EMCDDA also signed a cooperation agreement with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which provides a formal framework for the agencies to join forces in tackling drug-related infectious diseases and to contribute to the broader EU effort to prevent and control communicable diseases. A Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization (WCO) was also concluded.

29. Cooperation with third countries also forms part of the EMCDDA's mandate. In October, the Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Narcotics Traffic and Control (FDCS), which foresees the exchange of information and expertise in drug-related areas including

illicit drug use and trafficking. Experts from the Russian Federation also attended specialised experts' meetings convened by the Centre. In 2007, experts from Ukraine requested closer cooperation with the EMCDDA, which resulted in two technical meetings organized in Lisbon. Other delegations from third countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina and Venezuela, also visited the Centre.

30. In December 2007, the new EMCDDA Scientific Committee was established. It is composed of 15 high-level scientists from the EU Member States who have been chosen through a public selection process on the basis of scientific excellence and independence.
